

INSECT DETECTION SPECIALIST I
INSECT DETECTION SPECIALIST II

Class No. 005400
Class No. 005399

DEFINITION:

To perform detection, trapping, field identification, and control work on agricultural pests; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Insect Detection Specialist is a paraprofessional biologist class series found only in the Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures. Insect Detection Specialists are responsible for field collection, trapping and laboratory support work leading to the detection and control of insects and other agricultural pests. Insect Detection Specialists differ from Pest Management Technicians in that the latter are certified pesticide applicators responsible for pest management and eradication.

Insect Detection Specialist I:

This is the entry-level class in the Insect Detection Specialist series. Under immediate supervision, incumbents perform progressively more responsible and independent fieldwork. This class performs the least difficult pest detection and collection tasks.

Insect Detection Specialist II:

This is the journey level class in the Insect Detection Specialist series. Under general supervision, incumbents independently perform a variety of field and laboratory support duties and provide training to Insect Detection Specialists I. This class differs from the next higher class, Senior Insect Detection Specialist in that the latter is a first line supervisor responsible for supervising, training, and evaluating subordinate Insect Detection Specialists.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Performs field insect and pest detection duties on an assigned route; works an assigned route independently; places, inspects, and maintains insect traps; implements delimitation trapping and spraying to eradicate infestations independently or in cooperation with the State; conducts field surveys for weeds, vertebrates, insects, nematodes and diseases; collects insect, nematodes, plant and suspected diseased material samples for laboratory analysis/identification; places traps, bait and insecticides; maintains records and logs; prepares reports of work performed; receives, stores, selects, mixes, packages, and distributes toxic and other materials; may perform plant pathology or entomology laboratory work.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: I = Insect Detection Specialist I
 I = Insect Detection Specialist II

Knowledge of:**I** **II**

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| G | T | Specimen collection and handling methods. |
| G | T | Field identification of plant pests, plants and trees. |
| G | G | Pest-host relationships. |
| G | G | Standard laboratory equipment and procedures. |
| -- | G | Pest collection/control equipment, usage, maintenance, and safety procedures. |
| -- | G | Herbicides, pesticides, and their safe application. |

Skills and Abilities to:

The following apply to both classes:

- Observe and gather agricultural samples for testing.
- Place, inspect and maintain insect traps.
- Work an assigned route independently and efficiently.
- Read and follow maps.
- Learn to perform laboratory-testing procedures.
- Keep accurate records of work and make reports.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relations with those contacted in the course of work.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training and/or experience which clearly demonstrates possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Insect Detection Specialist I:

1. Six (6) months of experience in the areas of vertebrate, insect, plant disease or weed detection and/or identification in a nursery, horticulture or agricultural setting; OR,
2. Completion of at least nine (9) units of college level course work in biology, botany, entomology, or a closely related science.

Insect Detection Specialist II:

1. Six (6) months of experience as an Insect Detection Specialist I in the County of San Diego; OR,
2. Completion of at least eighteen (18) units of college level course work in biology, botany, entomology, or a closely related science.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:**License:**

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment and must be maintained throughout employment. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Working Conditions:

Subject to occasional overtime and weekend work.

Physical Requirements:

Incumbents in these classes work outside, lift and carry materials weighing 50 and occasionally up to 60 pounds, walk over rough terrain, and perform physically strenuous work. Incumbents must have normal color vision to recognize colors of specimens.